

KAREN ABADA - STATEMENT

All art is a search for meaning, in ourselves, in others, and in the world around us. My paintings - abstract, representational, or somewhere in between - are both metaphor and tool in my search for those meanings.

In my daily existence, I have always felt surrounded by messages and signs that are just beyond my grasp. Not hearing voices, but rather, moving through a world of meanings that I long to understand. This sense of a vast surrounding story led me to study linguistics and literature, but it is in painting that I can best express this quest to comprehend and communicate.

I am often asked the meaning of the writing in my paintings. What language is that? I wish I knew. More scribbles than writing, it represents those messages that swim around us everywhere, every day.

Recently, I started adding a small figure, or group of figures, to my paintings. With the events of the last few years, the questions embodied in my work seemed more urgent, morphing from timeless existential ones to anxious daily ones. Feeling my way in the dark, creatively, accidents and bad choices would reveal the way; the tiny searcher often became a group, apart, yet more together than ever, feeling their way in the dark, searching for change, hoping for hope.

As I paint, layers of color and movement, a conscious attention to balance and energy, and a desire for beauty, whether dark or shining, absorb me with each piece. I hope my paintings invite the viewer along in the search, and to consider their own quests and questions.

KARENABADA - BIO

EXHIBITIONS

- Belmar Arts Center, NJ, 17th Juried Show, May 2021, Juror: Susan Daboll
- The Philadelphia Sketch Club, 2021 Works on Paper, Night Swim to Mars
- ArthouseProductionGallery, Jersey City, NJ, "Pressing Pause" May 2020, **WINNER**
- Rowayton Arts Center, CT, Juried Show, 2020
- American Artists Professional League 91st Grand National Exhibition, Salmagundi Club, 2019
- Rowayton Arts Center, CT, Juried show, 2019
- Belmar Arts Center, NJ, The Big Painting Show, 2019, juror: Donna Kessinger
- Prince St. Gallery, NYC, 11th Annual Juried Exhibition, 2019, Juror: Lori Bookstein
- American Artists Professional League 90th Grand National Exhibition, Salmagundi Club, NYC, Nov. 2018, **CLAUDE PARSONS LANDSCAPE AWARD**
- Edgewater Gallery Juried Show, Stowe, Vt, Sept. 2018
- Barron Arts Center, Woodbridge, NJ, Juried Competition, The Earth Speaks, Aug. 2018
- Prince St. Gallery NYC, 10th Annual Juried Competition, 2018, juror: Robert Bermelin
- Waterloo Arts Juried Competition, Cleveland, Ohio, 2018

STUDIES

- Languages (French, German, Italian, Arabic) & Literature, Tufts Univ.
- Theoretical Linguistics, NYU
- Printmaking & Painting, Boston Museum School, Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris
- Illustration & Graphic Design, School of Visual Arts, NYC

JOBS BESIDES ARTIST

- Creative Director NY agencies/ Adult Literacy Tutor/ Canoeing Camp Counselor

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